

Application Number: 09/509,377

Version with markings to show changes made.

Listing of claims.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/509,377	08/28/2000	Sergey Matasov		9553

United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Commissioner for Patents
 Art Unit 3739
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: March 11, 2005

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the specification:**Endoscope****with disposable cartridges for the invagination of endoscopic tube.****Description of invention.**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.1. Field of the Invention.

The invention pertains relates to the field of medicine, namely to colonoscopy and enteroscopy, but can also be used for industrial endoscopes.

2. Description of Background Art.

Is known the device under FGR patent No. 3329476 U.S. Pat. 4,615,331 from Oct. 7, 1986 to Kramann, which includes comprising an endoscopic tube encased in an eversible elastic thin-walled tube which functions as a transporter-invaginator (hereinafter - invaginator) of the first endoscopic tube. The invaginator in the device according to this patent patented in FGR is set in long layers parallel to the transported tube. To One of the drawbacks of this device pertains is the inessential inconsistent unreeling of invaginator's layers which is explained caused by their "sticking together" due to under air pressure and inevitable getting of air into spaces between them. Untimely everting eversion of any layer excludes from participation in intubation process the other layers, located above the everted one.

Is known also the intestinal endoscope under the USSR author's certificate No. 1522486 inventor's certificate SU 1522466 from 0000-00-00 to Matasov with an invaginator set in short layers pleats and placed at the right angle with an endoscopic tube which is transported by it the invaginator. This endoscope was set is used as a basis to the present invention and will be has been taken as a prototype closest prior art. The endoscope according to the closest prior art prototype comprises: - a light source of light; - a source 5 of excessive pressure; - an endoscopic tube 3 with an eyepiece {1}, a control block 2 with having a communication branch-tube, stop 44 for a spring 40; - an invaginator of endoscopic tube 3

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which consists of everted part 4 and consisting of an uneverted part encased in an everted part [4], at that the uneverted part of invaginator tightly adjoins to an the endoscopic tube and is placed in short layers pleats perpendicularly to it. From the side of the uneverted end 7 the invaginator is supported with by a spring 10, but the place and the area of transition of the uneverted part of the invaginator into the everted part [4] is limited by a tip 6 (in the meaning of the "tip cover") of the endoscopic tube. Besides, the endoscope prototype has Furthermore, the endoscope according to the closest prior art comprises: - an external seal 13 of the endoscopic tube 3 on to which the end 12 of the everted part [4] of the invaginator is attached fixed with ring 16; - rings 8, 9 on the uneverted end 7 of the invaginator designed for pressurization of a cavity of the everted part of the invaginator; - an air-duct 15 with a cock 17 for feeding of working pressure into cavity 14 of the everted part [4] of the invaginator; - an anal dilator 19. Apart from Endoscopic tube of the closest prior art comprises light and image transmission elements, biopsy channels, channels for gas or liquid supply, an endoscopic tube 3 of the prototype and, in addition, comprises two pairs of closely wound close-coiled springs containing with traction lines which are pairwise connected to the distal ring of a mechanism for bending the a distal end of the endoscopic tube, and rollers for manual extraction of traction lines located in the control block 2 and designed for manual extraction of traction lines.

The first drawback of the endoscope prototype according to the closest prior art is unreliable functioning operation of its invaginator resulting in difficulties in introducing with introduction of the endoscopic tube 3 into the external seal 13 (see lines 42-53 of a-c. No. SU 1522466). The invaginator is to be everted under the tip 6, but during invagination the distal part of the endoscopic tube 3 becomes bared. It can be due both to lack of happen because of absence of a gap between the endoscopic tube 3 and the uneverted part of the invaginator and to a friable because of a flabby structure of the latter, which adheres to tube 3 cause the invaginator to adhere to the endoscopic tube under the action of air pressure. Tube pleats formed during while bending the distal end also prevent free movement of the invaginator along the endoscopic tube 3. As a result, the spring is unable to displace the invaginator to toward the tip 6. In addition, the invaginator's end 7 uneverted end of invaginator, connected with two rings, ensures poor does not ensure sufficient pressurization of the cavity 14 of the everted part of the invaginator.

The second drawback of known endoscopes is that bending of its distal end is possible only until a definite number of flexures of an endoscopic tube it is not possible to bend its distal end after the number of turns of an endoscopic tube has exceeded certain specific value. Its end is bent by rotating rotation of two rollers each connected to its pair of traction lines. Springs, which comprise traction lines, on the distal end continue These traction lines are enclosed in springs, and the distal ends of springs are extended by channels in the wall of cardan-joined rings. Ends of traction lines are soldered to the distal ring of the cardan mechanism for bending of the distal end of the tube. Outward extraction of traction lines from the Pulling a traction line out of a spring decreases gaps between cardan rings and forms a small radius of a flexure turn. Herewith At that, the distal cardan ring pulls the opposite traction line in distal direction, thus ensuring an increase of space thereby increasing the gaps between rings. Difference of lengths of big

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and small half-circumferences of the tube's bend turn is a product of " π " and diameter of an endoscopic tube. Japanese authors point out that when 3-4 loops are formed, the distal end of an endoscope is blocked, but while biopsy forceps continue to function. This difference is explained by L. Aler formula

$$\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = e^{\alpha \cdot f}$$

where: " Q_1 " - manual power-realizing force extracting the traction line extraction; " Q_2 " - remaining from " Q_1 " power, attached force applied to a distal cardan ring or to the cutters of biopsy forceps; " e " - basis of natural logarithm; " α " - traction line rotations in radians; " f " - friction index between a traction line and a spring. Under fixed values " Q_1 " and " f ", value " Q_2 " depends on value " α ", but notice that for two a pair of consecutively connected joined traction lines of an endoscope the latter value " α " is twice as large as for one traction line of biopsy forceps.

The third drawback of the prototype-prior art is the problem of its maintenance. For recurrent use, an endoscope is needs to be washed, disinfected and sterilized. However, there are reported cases of infecting patients with AIDS and other diseases after endoscopy. Preparation of the endoscope-prototype according to the closest prior art for work also includes requires its assembly. The number of detached parts of this endoscope amounts to 10, but There are 10 detachable parts needed to be assembled in the endoscope according to the closest prior art, and its assembly takes about half an hour. Ergonomics of operating the existing endoscopes also impede complicates its mastering. Thus, the left hand holds the control block, switches on and off its cocks, rotates handles, which bend and fix the distal end of the tube, but while the right hand introduces the tube into the intestine.

It has been practically proved proven in practice, that if an endoscope has makes more than 3-4 loops, then it is impossible to introduce biopsy forceps into it and to take a bioplate. This is the fourth drawback of the prototype prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

The objectives of the invention have been: - to increase reliability of invagination of an endoscopic tube; - to ensure bending of its distal end in flexuous channels; - to make maintenance of an endoscope more convenient; - to perform biopsy in flexuous channels. Implementation of these said objectives will make colonoscopy available to any physician and will make it easier for experienced endoscopists.

These objectives have been achieved by the fact that in the composition the construction of an endoscope, which contains consisting of: - a source of light; - a source of pressure; - biopsy forceps; - an endoscopic tube with the control block and communication branch, at that the endoscopic tube contains comprises internally elements for light and image transmission, a channel gas/liquid, a biopsy channel, two pairs of springs with traction lines, which pair-wise connect the mechanism for bending the distal end of the endoscopic tube with manual extractors of traction lines located in the control block, but and

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externally - a compressed spring placed on tubes distal end, the invaginator, the tip, a mobile seal, an anal dilator, additionally ~~has been included~~ has been further supplemented with:

- a disposable cartridge for the invagination of an endoscopic tube;
- a system of extractors-intractors of traction lines;
- an essentially changed endoscopic tube;
- a system of introduction and extraction of biopsy forceps;
- ~~a traction line intensifier of~~ an intensifier of a traction line of biopsy forceps.

The safety of introduction into the intestine and convenience of exploitation of the suggested endoscope is in the first turn ensured by the disposable sterile cartridge which consists of (1st-claim): - a shell with a projection at its proximal end, comprising wherein are comprised: a condom preservative of the distal part of the endoscopic tube, which preservative is united with a spring stop on its proximal end fastened at the proximal end with the spring stop; a compressed spring; a spring distancer in which wherein the distal seal of the endoscopic tube is located, which seal is joined fastened to an uneverted end of invaginator; a fixator of the said compressed spring; an invaginator in the manner form of a compact hollow flexible cylinder, which has the a gap with the condom said preservative and recurrent narrowings of an its external diameter and widenings of its internal diameter, at the same time the everted end of the invaginator is fastened on the distal end of the shell; - a proximal seal of the endoscopic tube, which seal is joined with located on the shell; - an anal dilator with the a channel in its wall; - the a tip of endoscopic tube united with the distal end of condom said preservative, which (the tip) has the a protective glass, a channel for washing of glass and for blowing-up inflating of intestines, elements for hermetic joining to the endoscopic tube. The compact hollow flexible cylinder of the invaginator is formed of crumpled and tightly compressed in longitudinal and transverse directions ~~short layers of different forms~~ variform pleats of an eversible thin-walled tube, placed at different angles with the longitudinal axis of the endoscopic tube (2nd claim). Moreover, the cartridge for invagination of the endoscopic tube is joined with the a mechanism of its introduction for introduction of said tube, which mechanism is made in the manner of a cylinder with two pistons, which are interconnected with by distancers and an elastic tube, but and the cavity between them is connected to the communicates with a source of gas pressure through the a pedal cock, in addition at that the cavity between the proximal seal of the endoscopic tube and the distal piston comprises the encloses a spring, which returns pistons to their home position and through the pedal cock is connected with the communicates with a source of vacuum (3rd-claim).

The system of extractors-intractors of traction lines has the a pneumo-hydro-manual drive and creates additional power force equal to a few grams at the distal end of the traction lines. The system includes comprises the sources of excess pressure and vacuum connected to the cavities of elastic tubes containing which cavities contain liquid and springs with traction lines, in addition at that said tubes are fixed to said springs with a thread, but the springs are made with steps spacings and ends on the are finished on some distance from the an executing mechanism for bending the distal end, in addition at that said traction lines at on the distal end are connected with springs, but and in the control block the traction

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lines are attached to manual extractors-intractors of traction lines ~~connected to~~ united with elements which ensure synchronous feeding of vacuum into the cavity of manually extracted traction line and feeding of excess pressure into the cavity of an introduced traction line (4th-claim). In order to create the additional power force the distal end of the tube and of the traction line it is possible to terminate finish by a cylinder and a piston accordingly, or it is possible to end finish the tube by an elastic element, for example, a sylphone, but and the traction line to connected with its sylphone's distal end (4th-claim). Manual extractors-intractors of the traction lines could be made in the a manner of a rod, but and the sources of pressure and vacuum - in a manner of a piston and a cylinder, positioned on the rod. An element, which ensures synchronous feeding of vacuum into the cavity of an the extracted traction line and pressure into the cavity of an the introduced traction line, could be a gear mated with cogs of two rods (5th-claim). As each of two gears is coupled only with its pair of traction lines, the bending of the tube's end is performed in two stages. The crosspiece with a-management an operating lever, where the central part has a-movable-connection-of the crosspiece is movably connected with the body of the control block, but and the ends of the crosspiece are attached to four rods (6th-claim), ensures simultaneous bending of the tube's end in any direction.

A novel endoscopic tube is supplemented with: - an internal transverse pleats of its external cover; - two air-ducts, where the larger one has a lateral opening into the cavity of the proximal seal of the cartridge for invagination, but and the smaller one - into the cavity of distal and proximal condome-preservatives; - areas for air-tight hermetic fixation of condome's preservatives ends; - a proximal condom preservative (1st-claim). In addition, the control block of the endoscopic tube could be made in the desktop manner of desk, but and the cock, feeding which feeds the working pressure into the everted part of invaginator, can could be placed in the pedal (7th-claim).

Pneumo-hydro-manual system for intraction introduction and extraction of biopsy forceps includes sources comprises of pressure and vacuum sources, which are connected through a cock to the cavity of the a biopsy channel, the entrance to which is sealed with a seal of biopsy forceps, at and the distal end of which there is said forceps has a piston of the biopsy channel (1st-claim).

The biopsy forceps with a pneumo-hydraulic intensifier of traction line contain comprise a flexible hermetic tube, which is connected to with sources of pressure and vacuum, but and the distal end of the tube and the traction line finishes with a cylinder and a piston (1st-claim).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

The graphic materials illustrate clarify the essence of invention, where on the FIG.1 is represented the endoscope with disposable cartridge for invagination, wherein: a - a handle-shaped control block; b - distal part of the endoscope with mounted cartridge; c - longitudinal section of the cartridge; d, e, f - enlarged fragments of FIG.1c. On FIG. 2 is represented the system of extraction-intraction of traction lines with pneumo-hydro-manual drive, when the distal end of an the endoscope is in direct position,

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wherein: a - position a state of system elements comprised in the control block; b - enlarged fragment of FIG. 2a; c - distal part of the endoscope with "bared" system elements (vertical arrows show the top-bottom of an the endoscopic tube); d - enlarged fragment of FIG. 2c. On FIG. 3 is represented the system of extraction-intraction of traction lines when the end of an the endoscope is bent downwards, wherein: a - position a state of elements contained in comprised in the control block; b - enlarged fragment of FIG. 3a; c - distal part of the endoscopic tube with "bared" elements (horizontal arrows show the driving direction of traction lines motion); d, e - enlarged fragments of FIG. 3c. On FIG. 4 are represented: a - a design of new endoscope; b - a crosspiece with a lever bending the distal end of endoscope in any direction; c - a construction of a mechanism for introduction of the endoscopic tube; d - a system of extraction and intraction system of biopsy forceps.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS.

Specification of numerical markings of FIGs. 1-4 is given at the end of the description is practically similar to graphic materials of the prototype. A novel endoscope includes an endoscopic tube 3 with a control block 2 and a communication branch. An air-duct 15 and a cock 17 positioned on the control block 2 or in a pedal, connect a source of working pressure with an opening 21 into the cavity of a seal 13, which cavity communicates with a cavity 14 of a shell 22. The distal part of the shell 22 is commensurable in relation to by length and diameter to the unverted part of an invaginator 23, but the and its proximal part - to the a compressed spring 10. The everted end 12 of the invaginator 23 is connected to fastened on the shell 22 by a ring 16. The invaginator 23 has narrowings and widenings 24, as well as a gap 25 with a distal condom preservative 26. Ends of the distal 26 and a proximal 27 condoms preservatives and as well as corresponding to them places of the tube 3 have areas 28 for interconnection and hermetization. A seal 29 on the end 7 of the invaginator 23 separates the cavity 14 from the cavity 25, which communicates with the intestinal cavity. A distancer 30 prevents deformation of the seal 29 by the spring 10. Ends of compressed spring 10 are based rested on the distancer 30 and a stop 11 at the end 28 of condom the preservative 26. The stop 11, in its turn, is positioned on the a projection 31 of the shell 22. The distal end of condom the preservative 26 ends with finishes by a tip 6 with channels 32 for washing of a protective glass 33 and blowing-up inflating of intestines, as well as and with an element for connection fixation to the endoscopic tube 3. On the border of between narrow and broad wide parts of the shell 22, there is an area of with an intermediate diameter, with indented wherein is pressed an elastic ring 34 for fixation of the compressed spring 10. A channel 35 of in an anal dilator 19 is used for decompression of intestines during intubation. In the tube 3, besides the in addition to afore-enumerated, there are elastic tubes 36, 37 comprising springs 38, 39 and traction lines 40, 41. The tubes 36, 37 are connected to the springs 38, 39 with a thread 42. Near to a mechanism 43 for bending of the distal end of the tube 3, the ends of the tubes 36, 37 are closed with plugs 44, which plugs also connect the springs 38, 39 with the traction lines 40, 41. Proximal ends of tubes 36, 37 are connected with sources 45 of excess pressure and vacuum. Proximal ends of the traction lines 40, 41 are connected with their manual extractors-intractors 46, but the latter and said extractors-intractors - with an element 47, which ensures synchronous feeding of vacuum into the cavity of the extracted traction line 40 which is being extracted

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and of pressure into the cavity of the introduced traction line 41 which is being introduced. The endoscopic tube 3 has internal pleats 48 of its external cover, an air-duct 49 with two openings 50, which serve for vacuum fixation of condoms the preservatives 26, 27 to the tube 3; and also additionally the tube 3 has a removable sleeve gasket 51. The control block 2 has a cock 52 of the air-duct 49. The seal 13 is hermetically connected to a mechanism 53 for introduction of the endoscopic tube 3. The mechanism 53 for introduction of the tube 3 is operated by a pedal 54 but and a lever 55 realizes controls the bending of tube's end. A cylinder 56, two pistons 57, distancers 58 and an elastic tube 59 limit a cavity 60, which is connected with a source of pressure by means of a cock in the pedal 54. A cavity 61 comprises a return spring 62 and is connected with a source of vacuum by means of a cock in the pedal 54. A seal 64 and a nut 65 are mounted on biopsy forceps 63, but a piston 66 is positioned while at their distal end of said forceps a piston 66 is positioned. Seat for the seal 64 and the nut 65 is located at an entry 67 to the biopsy channel, which is positioned with entry as well as a cock 68 are positioned on control block 2. A siphone 69, which serves as a source of pressure and vacuum in a pneumatic intensifier of traction line of biopsy forceps, can could be combined with a handle of biopsy forceps 63.

Marks made on condom the preservative 27 and the tube 3 serves for their correct positioning connection. Then After that the mechanism 53 is mounted on the tube 3 and the cartridge for invagination is fixed. Pressing of on the cock 52 will ensure the vacuum fixation of condoms the preservatives 26, 27 to the tube 3. After introduction of the seal 13 into the cylinder 56, endoscope's preparation for work is completed.

After the patient has been placed on an endoscopic table, a the cartridge is oiled and introduced into the rectum and its ampoule is examined as if with a rigid rectoscope. The pressure in the cavity 14 is raised increased by pressing the cock 17 thus freeing the distancer 30 from coupling with the fixator 34 and the shell 22. Thereby Thus, the spring 10 is released and it is possible to proceed with invagination of the tube 3. Eversion of the invaginator 23 and introduction of the tube 3 into the colon occurs under working pressure in the cavity 14 at moments of pressing when the pedal 54 is pressed. During In the course of the endoscopy the intestines are to be distended-inflated. Gas into intestines is constantly supplied through a gas/liquid channel of in the tube 3 and further through the channel 32 of the tip 6 thus preventing ingress of intestinal contents of getting under the protective glass 33. Gas evacuation from intestines occurs through the channel 35 of the anal dilator 19.

Bending of the mechanism 43 is accomplished realized by means of the sources 45 of excessive pressure and vacuum sources 46, by manual extractors-intractors 46 of traction lines 40, 41 and by means of elements 47 which ensure feeding of vacuum into the cavity of the tube 36 which comprises the extracted traction line 40, and feeding of excessive pressure in the cavity of the tube 37 containing which comprises the introduced traction line 41. Due to Under the action of vacuum the elastic tube 36 and the spring 38 are shortened. Considering, that their distal end is connected with the traction line 40, this shortening relieves its manual extraction of this traction line. Due to Under the action of pressure in the

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tube 37 latter this tube and the spring 39 elongates towards ~~executive~~ the executing mechanism 43 thus relieving manual intraction of the traction line 41. The thread 42 twisted on tubes 36, 37, connects them with combines these tubes with the springs 38, 39. Thus, vacuum and pressure, which shorten and elongate the tubes 36, 37 and the springs 38, 39, ensure application of powers forces to distal ends of traction lines 40 and 41; manual extraction and intraction of the traction lines 40, 41, create synchronous efforts on their proximal ends of traction lines. The mechanism 43 of the tube 3 is bent downwards by the above-mentioned method. ~~During bending of~~ When the mechanism 43 ~~is bent~~ is bent upwards, all above enumerated elements are moved in opposite directions; but the second pair of traction lines, which work similarly, implement bending of the mechanism 43 to the left and to the right ~~is implemented by the second pair of traction lines which work similarly.~~ In intermediate positions the mechanism 43 is bent by interchangeable application use of both pairs of traction lines. The element 47 made in the shape of a crosspiece with the lever 55, ensures simultaneous bending of the mechanism 43 in any direction.

As during now in the course of colonoscopy the tube 3 repeats all natural flexures of the colon, ~~its tube's~~ extubation must not be accelerated. The anal dilator 19, through which extubation is to be conducted, ~~eliminates~~ reduces to minimum unpleasant sensations caused by this process.

The most practically important version embodiment of the invention is a colonoscope with the endoscopic tube 3 without biopsy channel. A The disposable cartridge ensures an available to all and atraumatic transportation of the tube 3 in the colon, ~~condoms~~ preservatives 26, 27 protect the patient from infections seated in the endoscopic tube 3, but the tube 3 in it's turn - from getting contagious during endoscopy. ~~Ergonomy of handling~~ Ergonomics of operating with such colonoscope also makes it available to any physician: during endoscopy a physician in sedentary position watches the screen, presses the pedal cock 17 with one foot and the pedal 54 with another, with the right hand controls the lever 55, but and in case of necessity washes the protective glass 33 by pressing on the cock with the left hand. Such colonoscope is necessary firstly for family doctors, gastroenterologists and surgeons for the regular colon cancer screening. Having selected the "suspicious" patients, out-patient physicians will direct them to an in-patient clinic for ~~conducting~~ biopsy taking and other thorough examinations.

For biopsy taking is used a cartridge with the tip 6, without the glass 33 ~~is used~~. Having exhausted the possibility of manual insertion of the forceps 63, it is necessary by means of the seal 64 and the nut 65 to hermetize seal hermetically the entry 67 into the biopsy channel and connect it by means of the cock 68 to the source of pressure. Further insertion of the forceps 63 is performed by their manual intraction and due to pressure of liquid or gas pressure on the piston 66, but while forceps' extraction is performed by switching the cock 68 in the "vacuum" position and by manual extraction of the forceps 63. Due to location of the pressure and vacuum source 69 of the traction line intensifier in the handle of said forceps, bioplate taking is made implemented as previously - approach of rings ensures movement of the traction line inwards, but while rings' detachment - extraction of the traction line.

Specifications of graphic materials' marks markings on fig. 1-4 is as follows and on fig. ~~of the~~ prototype:

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- 1—~~eyepiece (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 2—~~the control block with the communication branch-tube;~~
 - 3—~~the endoscopic tube;~~
 - 4—~~everted part of invaginator (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 5—~~source of working pressure in cavity 14 (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 6—~~the tip of the endoscopic tube 3;~~
 - 7—~~the uneverted end of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 8,9—~~rings at the end 7 of invaginator (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 10—~~the compressed spring;~~
 - 11—~~the stop for the spring 10;~~
 - 12—~~the everted end of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 13—~~the proximal seal of the tube 3;~~
 - 14—~~the cavity of the everted part 4 of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 15—~~the air-duct for feeding of working pressure into the cavity 14;~~
 - 16—~~the ring, fixing the end 12 of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 17—~~the cock of the air-duct 15;~~
 - 18—~~manometer (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 19—~~the anal dilator;~~
 - 20—~~rectum (fig. of the prototype only);~~
 - 21—~~the opening of the air-duct 15 on the tube 3;~~
 - 22—~~the shell of cartridge for invagination;~~
 - 23—~~the invaginator formed into a compact flexible cylinder;~~
 - 24—~~the narrowings and widenings of the cylinder of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 25—~~the gap (cavity) between the cylinder of invaginator 23 and condom the preservative 26;~~
 - 26—~~the distal condom preservative of the tube 3;~~
 - 27—~~the proximal condom preservative of the tube 3;~~
 - 28—~~the areas on the tube 3 and at on the ends of condoms preservatives 26, 27 for their hermetic connection;~~
 - 29—~~the distal seal between the tube 3 and the end 7 of the invaginator 23;~~
 - 30—~~the distancer between the spring 10 and the invaginator 23, comprising which distancer comprises the seal 29;~~
 - 31—~~the projection on the shell 22 for the stop 11;~~
 - 32—~~the channel in the tip 6;~~
 - 33—~~the protective glass of the tip 6;~~
 - 34—~~the elastic ring, fixing the spring 10 in compressed state;~~
 - 35—~~the channel in the anal dilator 19;~~
 - 36—~~the lower elastic tube of extractor-intractor of traction lines;~~
 - 37—~~the upper elastic tube of extractor-intractor of traction lines;~~
 - 38—~~the lower spring of extractor-intractor of traction lines;~~

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- 39 – the upper spring of extractor-intractor of traction lines;
- 40 – the lower traction line of extractor-intractor of traction lines;
- 41 – the upper traction line of extractor-intractor of traction lines;
- 42 – the thread fixing the elastic tubes 36, 37 to the springs 38, 39;
- 43 – the mechanism for bending of the distal end of the tube 3;
- 44 – the plug, closing which closes the tubes 36, 37 and connecting connects the springs 38, 39 with the traction lines 40, 41;
- 45 – the sources of pressure and vacuum;
- 46 – the manual extractors-intractors of the traction lines 40, 41;
- 47 – the element for extraction-intraction of one or two pairs of the traction lines;
- 48 – the pleats of external cover of the tube 3;
- 49 – the air-duct into cavity of condoms the preservatives 26, 27;
- 50 – the distal and proximal openings of the air-duct 49 on the tube 3;
- 51 – the sleeve gasket;
- 52 – the cock of the air-duct 49 seek on the control block 2;
- 53 – the mechanism for insertion of the endoscopic tube 3;
- 54 – the pedal for switching on the mechanism 53;
- 55 – the lever of the element 47, made in a shape of a crosspiece;
- 56 – the cylinder of the mechanism 53;
- 57 – the pistons of the cylinder 56;
- 58 – the distancers between the pistons 57;
- 59 – the elastic tube, attached to the pistons 57;
- 60 – the hermetic cavity, enclosed by the elastic tube 59 and the pistons 57;
- 61 – the hermetic cavity, enclosed by the seal 13 and the distal piston 57;
- 62 – the spring, returning the pistons 57 to home position;
- 63 – the biopsy forceps;
- 64 – the seal of the entry 67 into a biopsy channel;
- 65 – the nut, fixing the seal 64;
- 66 – the piston of the biopsy forceps;
- 67 – the entry into a biopsy channel;
- 68 – the cock, feeding which feeds pressure or vacuum into a biopsy channel;
- 69 – the source of pressure and vacuum connected with the cavity of biopsy forceps 63;
- 70 – cutters of the biopsy forceps 63;
- 71 – distal intensifier (drive) of the traction line of the cutters 70.

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Claims 1-20 have been amended by claims 1-12 as follows:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): An endoscope with disposable cartridges for the invagination of endoscopic tube, comprising

- o an endoscopic tube (3) having a distal part nearest to tube's distal end with a guided distal end,
- o ~~an invaginator of the endoscope tube, which is an elastic tube inflated and everted for invagination of the endoscope tube into the explored channel, said elastic tube is gathered by pleats and has an uneverted end,~~

wherein the improvement comprises an invaginator whose uneverted end is coupled with said distal part of the endoscope tube, at that said invaginator is held on said distal part of the endoscope tube.

- o a disposable cartridge located on the distal part of the endoscopic tube (3) and comprising an invaginator of the endoscopic tube, which invaginator is an eversible tube with an uneverted end (7) joined with the endoscopic tube (3), and an uneverted part of invaginator formed by pleats into a compact hollow cylinder (23), having a gap (25) with the distal part of the endoscopic tube (3).

Claims 2 and 3 (withdrawn).

Claim 4 (currently amended). The endoscope according to claim 2 or 3 1, wherein said the cylinder (23) of the invaginator ~~has comprises~~ narrowings (24) of its external diameter and widenings (24) of its internal diameter.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 ~~claim 1~~, further comprising a shell for conducting the distal part of said endoscope tube with invaginator along rectum, at that the diameter of said shell is commensurate to the diameter of said invaginator, wherein the cartridge comprises a shell (22), which contains the cylinder (23) of the invaginator.

Claims 6-9 (withdrawn).

Claim 10 (currently amended). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 ~~claim 1~~, further comprising wherein the cartridge comprises a preservative (26) of the distal part of the endoscopic tube (3), which preservative is united with a tip (6) of the endoscopic tube (3) at that the proximal end of preservative and the tip have areas for hermetic fixation to the distal part of said endoscope tube and comprises areas (28) for the hermetic fixation to the endoscopic tube (3).

Claim 11 (currently amended). The endoscope according to claim 10 4, wherein the tip (6) comprises a protective glass (33) and communicates with a cavity of intestines.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (withdrawn).

Claim 15 (canceled).

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Claim 16 (withdrawn).

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (withdrawn).

Claim 20 (withdrawn).

Claim 21 (new). The endoscope according to claim 5, wherein the tip (6) comprises a channel (32) for inflation of the intestines and prevention of ingress of intestinal contents under the protective glass (33).

Claim 22 (new). The endoscope according to any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the endoscopic tube (3) comprises areas (28) for the hermetic fixation of the distal preservative (26) united with the tip (6).

Claim 23 (re-presented and amended – formerly dependent claim 13). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 6, wherein the endoscopic tube (3) has a comprises internal transverse pleats (48) of its external cover, which are directed inwards.

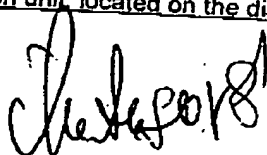
Claim 24 (re-presented and amended – formerly dependent claim 12). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 6, further comprising a mechanism (53) for introduction of the endoscopic tube (3) into the everted part of invaginator, which is a cylinder-piston unit having a hermetic cavity, confined by a cylinder, a piston and a segment of an elastic tube, connected to fluid pressure which mechanism comprises a hermetic cavity (60), limited by a cylinder (56), a piston (57), an elastic tube (59) and is connected to fluid pressure.

Claim 25 (re-presented and amended – formerly dependent claim 15). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 6, wherein the endoscopic tube (3) comprises distal drives of traction lines (40, 41), bending the distal end of the endoscopic tube (3), which drives are comprise executing cylinder-piston units connected to the pressure of gas or liquid.

Claim 26 (re-presented and amended – formerly dependent claim 17). The endoscope according to any of claims 1 to 3 6, wherein the endoscopic tube (3) has comprises a biopsy channel, connected to fluid pressure and biopsy forceps (63), which are a flexible hermetic tube with a piston (66) of the biopsy channel on the distal end of said tube.

Claim 27 (re-presented and amended – formerly dependent claim 18). The endoscope according to claim 4 7, wherein the biopsy forceps (63) have a distal drive of forceps which is a cylinder-piston unit connected to fluid pressure comprise an intensifier (71) of a traction line, which intensifier comprises an executing cylinder-piston unit, located on the distal end of the hermetic tube and of the traction line.

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Remarks / Arguments.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/509,377	08/28/2000	Sergey Matasov		9553

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
Art Unit 3739
Examiner Mr. Leubecker, John P.
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450
United States of America

EXAMINER	
LEUBECKER, JOHN P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3739	

DATE MAILED: March 11, 2005

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 have been amended.

Examiner has acknowledged that claims 1-12 have now been amended to clear up all Examiners' objections set forth in the Office Action from December 15, 2004.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification, claims and drawings by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Faithfully Yours,

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